

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04185 310755Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /045 W
-----019272 311936Z /46

R 310640Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3398
CNO WASHDC
INFO SECDEF
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
COMSEVENTHFLT
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, MILL, VN, AS
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE BOAT REFUGEES ABOARD USS ENTERPRISE TASK
GROUP

1. NEWS REPORTS (RADIO) THIS MORNING ALLEGED THAT SHIPS
OF THE USS ENTERPRISE TASK GROUP EXERCISING IN THE TIMOR
SEA, HAD PICKED UP VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO WERE EN ROUTE
TO AUSTRALIA.

2. GOA IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ASKED EMBASSY
WHETHER WE COULD CONFIRM THE REPORTS. WE SAID WE'D CHECK.
PLEASE ADVISE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE ASSUME INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN
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PAGE 02 CANBER 04185 310755Z

PROVIDED TO US NAVY SHIPS ON HANDLING SITUATIONS WHERE
THEY END UP WITH VIETNAMESE BOAT CASES ON BOARD.
EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT WE BE IMMEDIATELY INFORMED IF THERE
IS ANY LIKELIHOOD THAT US NAVY SHIPS MIGHT CONSIDER OFF-
LOADING VIETNAMESE BOAT CASE REFUGEES IN AUSTRALIA
OR OTHERWISE FACILITATE THEM IN REACHING HERE.

4. COMMENT: GOA PROBLEMS IN DEALING WITH AUSTRALIAN
PUBLIC RELUCTANCE TO SEE THIS COUNTRY BECOME A HAVEN
FOR BOAT CASE REFUGEES WOULD BE IMMENSELY COMPOUNDED
IF IT WERE KNOWN THAT US NAVY SHIPS HAD AIDED VIETNAMESE
REFUGEES BOUND FOR THESE SHORES. IT IS NOT THE EMBASSY'S
INTENTION TO SUGGEST HOW US NAVY SHIPS WOULD MEET
CONTINGENCIES, BUT RATHER SIMPLY TO SAY THAT IF THERE ARE
SUCH CONTINGENCIES, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE BE KEPT FULLY
AND PROMPTLY INFORMED SO WE CAN DO THE SAME WITH THE GOA.
ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, MARINE TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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